

WILLIAM H. KENT.

MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to printed.

Mr. FOSTER, of Washington, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 5952.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5952) granting an increase of pension to William H. Kent, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

William H. Kent, now 63 years of age, who served as a private in Company F, Twelfth Illinois Infantry, from April 26 to August 1, 1861, when honorably discharged, and who again served as a private in Company D, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, from March 16 to November 15, 1865, when honorably discharged, never applied for pension under the general law, but is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability by reason of chorea.

When last examined, in June, 1899, by the board of surgeons at Seattle, Wash., he was rated \$17 for chorea and \$4 for impaired vision, and the board then stated that all the muscles of his entire body were affected by chorea; that the motor symptoms consisted of twitching and jerking movements of his facial muscles and all the muscles of the body; that his gait was high-stepping and that he walked with a peculiar to-and-fro motion of the body; that at times he makes awkward jerking movements of the hands and feet; that the most prominent symptom he presents was the marked mental disturbance, etc.

The statement of Hon. F. W. Cushman, the member who introduced this bill, dated October 9, 1903, and addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions, states that he went to the rooms of this old man on October 9, 1903; that he was then worse than helpless; that to say that he was in a pathetic condition did not begin to describe it; that there is a continual twitching of his body as well as of the arms and legs; that he is not only totally helpless but needs an attendant continually, and that the whole family are very poor.

There are many precedents for increasing the pension of the aged, destitute, and totally disabled veterans, and the facts stated above bring this case fully within such precedents.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.